THE HVMBLE AND EARNEST REQVEST OF THOMAS IAMES, D. OF DIVINITY, AND SVBDEANE of the Cathedrall Church of *Welles*, to the *Church of England*; for, and in the behalfe of Bookes touching Religion.

THat the *Latine Fathers* workes, (whereof diuers are already done)

the Bookes of *Councels*, and the body of the *Canon Law*, may be diligently reviewed and compared With the best *Manuscripts*; and the Collections and needfull obseruations thence-from arising, printed; together with the pieces and fragments of the *Fathers* workes (if any shall be found.)

2 That the *Latine Translation* of the *Greeke Fathers* may be collationed by able and fit persons, by reason of diuerse *Christophorsons* and Iesuits, that haue too-too much abused the ignorant of the tongue.

3 That the *Indices Expurgatory*

tory may be likewise perused, all of them, as many as can be gotten, the places forbidden to be transcribed, of which labour there is a third part at the least already taken either by me, or my procurement.

4 That *Lyra and the Glosse*, the *Great Bibliotheca sanctorum Patrum*, *Platina*, *Caietan*, *Alphonsus de Castro*, and sundry others of all sorts of Authors, may be compared with former *Editions*, and *Manuscripts* (if need be) to meet with their secret *Indices Expurgatorii*, which are the more dangerous, because they print, and leave out what they

liſt, at pleaſure, and yet make no words of it, neither haue any Commiſſion knowne for to doe it.

5 That the *Authors of the middle age*, that wrote in the defence of that Religion, which is now (thankes be to God) publikely eſtabliſhed in the *Church of England*, for the ſubſtance thereof, may be faithfully tranſcribed, diligently collated, & diſtributed into volumes, whereof many may be made of orthodoxe-writers; if not ſo many, as of their *Bibliotheca Patrum Probabilium*: adding hereunto ſuch Writers, as being bred and

brought vp in the bosome of the *Roman Church* saw the disorders, discouered their abuses both in doctrine and manners, and wished almost for the same reformation, that was afterward most happily wrought & brought to passe by *Martin Luther* and his companions: of the first sort are *Wickliffe*, *Peacocke*, *Gu. de S. Amore*, *Jo. P. Minorita*, *Normannus Anon*, *Nic. Orem* & sundry others: of the later kinde, *Wesselus*, *Wicelius*, *P. de Alliaco*, *Faber*, *Gerson*, *Cusanus*, and such like.

6 That the *Catalogus testium veritatis*, compiled by *Illyricus*,

may be rectified out of the originals, quoting Booke, Chapter, & Edition; & supplyed out of the vnprinted *Manuscripts*.

7 That out of all these an *Anticoccius* may be framed out of *Fathers, and middle-aged Writers*, that were in their times esteemed of the Church of *Rome*, and out of them onely: nothing doubting but we shall be able to match, if not exceed, his two large Volumes both in greatnes and goodnesse; quoting as before, precisely, our Editions, and doing all *fide optima & antiqua*, religiously and vnpartially as becommeth Diuines.

8 That the *ſuppoſititious* and *Baſtard Workes of the Fathers*, noted by Doctor *Rivet*, or Maſter *Cooke*, or any other, may be re-examined; their exceptions ſcanned or weighed with indifferency, & other reaſons added to their challenge, if any ſhal be found.

9 That the ſuſpected places may be viewed in the true *Fathers*, which are juſtly challenged of corruption, either by our own men, or the aduerſary, with the like indifference of minds, and vnpartiality of judgments, being cõpared with the touchſtone of the old *Manuſcripts*, and

printed bookes, which are *quasi Manuscripts*.

Tenthly and lastly, the perpetuall *Visibility of the Church*, more or lesse, and the History of the same Religion that we professe for the substance thereof, throughout all ages, may be shewed to the Eye, noting when those Novelisms & superadditaments of the *Church of Rome*, came in as neare as may be guessed, the time when, and parties by whom they were opposed.

All which 10 *Propositions*, (needfull and important as they are) I doe willingly commend

vnto my deare Mother the *Church of England*, and from her to the *Cleargie* & *Gentry* of this Land, to be proceeded in, as they shall see it most expedient for the common good; promising nothing but my paines to be commanded in these publique seruices. And I make no doubt (if God vvill) but that all this may be effected, vvithin some fevv yeares, if the Almighty giue grace, the Rich vvhom God hath blessed vvith this vvorldly substance, incouragement, & the rest their prayers. Of the likelihood hereof I am the rather perswaded, be-

cause

printed bookes, which are *quaſi Manuſcripts*.

Tenthly and laſtly, the perpetuall *Viſibility of the Church*, more or leſſe, and the Hiſtory of the ſame Religion that we profeſſe for the ſubſtance thereof, throughout all ages, may be ſhewed to the Eye, noting when thoſe Noveliſmes & ſuperadditaments of the *Church of Rome*, came in as neare as may be gueſſed, the time when, and parties by whom they were oppoſed.

All vvhich 10 *Propoſitions*, (needfull and important as they are) I doe vvillingly commend

vnto my deare Mother the *Church of England*, and from her to the *Cleargie* & *Gentry* of this Land, to be proceeded in, as they shall see it most expedient for the common good; promising nothing but my paines to be commanded in these publique seruices. And I make no doubt (if God vvill) but that all this may be effected, vvithin some fevv yeares, if the Almighty giue grace, the Rich vvhom God hath blessed vvith this vvorldly substance, incouragement, & the rest their prayers. Of the likelihood hereof I am the rather perswaded, be-

cause

cauſe already by my ovvne meanes, and ſmall endeauours, there is almoſt a fourth part of the Worke done in all theſe 10 *Articles*. If one alone may doe ſo much vvithin ſuch a time, vvhat may a dozen able Scholl-lers (ſuch as I knovv and could name) doe vvithin 5, 6, 7, or 8 yeares, vvhich is the vtmoſt in my conjecture?

For the raiſing of the charges, vvhich vvill amount to three thouſand pound Stock, or three hundred pound a yeare at the leaſt, (ſo much ſhal vvell cõtent both me and them,) that ſhall be imploied in this happy

Worke:

Worke: (though if more be offered, vve knovv vvell hovv to vſe and imploy it to the publique benefit:) and of raiſing ſuch a ſumme as this is, I doubt not, if ſome one of the *Cleargie* or *Laitie* ſhal not take vpon him the whole charge, as many in this Kingdome are (thankes be to God) able, and would be willing, if they either knew of the good that is likely to come vnto the Church, or the Honor vnto themſelues, and chiefly how much this buſines doth concerne the glory of God, the aſſuring of the moſt materiall points controverted, whiles there

there are daily queſtions made, & doubts ariſing either about the Editions, Readings, Tranſlations, Corruptions of whole Bookes in Pſeudepigraphous Writers, or of diuers hundreds of places in the True Bookes, all which difficulties will eaſily be auoided (as I truſt) by this one Worke being once well done. But that ſuch a Stocke or annuall rent may be made, I doubt not; but am ſomewhat confident, when I ſee how fruitfull our Religion hath bin of good Workes, and how many *Suttons* and *Bodleyes*, and other godly men it hath yeelded, no

Nati-

Nation more: and herein no city, (I except not *Rome* her self) without the hope of pardon, guile of Confessours, and feare of Purgatory, is able to match or equalize, much lesse to surpasse or exceed our famous City of *London* in the right vse and end of giuing as tokens of our Faith, not as the meanes of our saluation. What shall I speak of the *Sages* of our *Law*, or *Innes of Court*? but my desire is, and proposall shall be to offer this great Honour, first vnto the *Cleargie* of this Land. The Popish *Cleargie* in *France* haut (as I am informed) at their

own

owne charges printed the *Greek Fathers*, & ſhall not we be prouoked to doe the like for the *Latines*, and many things elſe that import the Weale Publique of Learning? Twelue pound out of euery *Dioceſe* one with another, from the *Cathedrall Churches*, the *Reuerend Biſhops* and *Cleargie*, will make vp the ſume; or if euery one of the *Cleargie* of this famous Church, will either giue yearely xij^{d}, or but lend ij^{s}, till any thing be printed, he ſhall haue the ſame againe with thankes, (if it be demanded,) deducted out of the Booke, when any thing ſhall be printed;

printed; I meane this xij^{d} or two ſhillings of euery hundred pound, they making their own eſtimates of their liuings, and paying the ſame halfe yearely to the *Regiſter* of euerie *Dioceſe*. But my intent is to deſire, & not to preſcribe vnto my *Superiours*, who know better then I how to manage ſo weightie and important a buſines, reſting theirs

Wholly to command

T. I. S. T. P. B. P. N.

Bono. publico. nat^{9}

BRITISH MUSEUM 23 FE 71

I Approue of the things here proiected, & wish with all my heart they may take good effect.

Io. Prideaux Vicecanc. S.T.D. Prof. Reg. Theol.

Rod. Kettell Præses Coll. S. Trinit.

Leon. Hutten Ædis Christi Prebend.

Guil. Langton Coll. Magd. Præses.

Sebastianus Benefield Lecturæ Margareticæ Professor.

Io. Parkehurst Magister Coll. Ball.

Io. Raulenson Principalis Aulæ S. Edmundi.

Io. Wilkinson Aul. Magd. Præp.

Guil. Peirs Decanus Petriburgensis.

Sam. Fell Ædis Christi Præbend.

Tho. Iles Aulæ Cervinæ Principalis.

Ric. Astrey Custos Coll. Omnium Animarum.

Rob. Pinck Novi Coll. Custos.

Gu. Smyth Coll. Wadham. Guard.

Io. Tolson Coll. Oriel. Præpositus.

Paulus Hood Coll. Lincoln. Rector.

Guil. Ivxon Coll. D. Io. Præses.